The WATCH TOWER
AND HERALD OF CHRIST'S PRESENCE

VOL. LII AUGUST 15, 1931 No. 16

ABOMINATIONS IN CHRISTENDOM

"Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel; therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me."—Ezek. 3: 17.

JEHOVAH makes it clearly to appear in his Word that he gives fair and full warning to the workers of iniquity before he inflicts upon such his judgment. He sent Noah to give warning of the flood. He sent Moses to give warning to the ruler of Egypt. He sent his prophets to give warning to Jerusalem of his purpose to destroy that city. Knowing that these things foreshadow the destruction of the wicked organization that rules the world, and particularly have reference to Christendom, should we not expect to find in the Scriptures that Jehovah has given command that notice of warning must be served upon Christendom?

2 One of the titles which Jehovah gave to his beloved Son is "The Son of man". "The Son of man" is God's 'elect servant'. (Isa. 42: 1) When Jehovah sent Jesus to his temple he sent him for judgment and to select out the approved ones that these might 'offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness'. (Mal. 3: 1-3) Such offering in righteousness means full and complete devotion to Jehovah, and therefore full obedience to his commandments. There could be no faithful obedience on the part of those in the covenant without bearing testimony to the world of and concerning Jehovah's purposes. The approved ones selected at the temple by Jesus Christ are designated collectively as the "faithful and wise servant" to whom are committed the kingdom interests, which means the giving of the testimony that was committed first to Jesus Christ. Such class is made a part of God's "servant", and therefore when the Lord addresses Ezekiel by the title "son of man" it is certain that Ezekiel was used to foreshadow that class known as the "faithful and wise servant". If God's purpose is to give warning to Christendom, it reasonably follows that he would use this people who compose the "servant" class to do that work. The Scriptures abundantly support that conclusion. That being true, there is a responsibility resting upon the "servant" class, otherwise called the remnant, that cannot be avoided. Concerning this Jehovah says: "When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul."—Ezek. 3: 18, 19.

3 It should be expected that we would find a correspondency between Ezekiel and the work he did and that to be done by the class whom Ezekiel foreshadowed, because we know that these things came to pass by God's will to foreshadow greater things to come to pass in the future days. It was in the year 617 B. C. that Ezekiel, together with other Israelites, was carried away as captive to Babylon. (2 Ki. 24: 15, 16) The fact that God used Ezekiel to write down the prophecy foretelling his purposes upon Jerusalem, the unfaithful city, proves that Ezekiel was not taken captive because of any wrong that he had done, but that God permitted him to be taken into captivity to be used to accomplish his own purposes. During the World War many of God's children were taken captive by Satan's organization, quite a number of them incarcerated behind prison bars; and the fact that these have been permitted to serve God since that time is proof that they were not taken because of any wrongdoing on their part, but because God would use these circumstances to accomplish his own purposes. Some who want an excuse for fault-finding have stated that brethren were in prison during the war because of meddling in affairs that were not theirs. This is wholly unsupported by the Scriptures and by the facts.

4 The captivity of God's people began in 1914, when the World War put restraint upon many of the consecrated. By the end of 1918 God's covenant people on earth who were devoted to him were practically all in captivity because the work was stopped by the agents of Babylon. While some were actually behind prison bars, others were as effectually restrained, almost, so far as their work was concerned. In 1919 the work of the Lord by his covenant people was again revived. The year 617 B. C., therefore, corresponds with 1914, and the year 612 B. C. corresponds with the year 1919 (A. D.). Five years after Ezekiel's captivity God began to use him to prophesy. Ezekiel was then thirty years of age, that being the age required

for one to perform the duties in the priest's office. While we have no way of definitely fixing the date, the circumstances seem to indicate that those who were faithful, upon the coming of the Lord to his temple in 1918, were anointed to serve in the priestly office by 1919, when the work in the field was resumed. Jehovah used Ezekiel as his witness to the Babylonian captives, that is, the Jews in Babylon, and against the corrupt religionists of the Jews in particular. Correspondingly, therefore, Ezekiel foreshadows that class that would be used to give testimony to God's people in captivity and to the corrupt religionists who are the workers of iniquity. Ezekiel's first vision was given him by Jehovah in the fifth year after his captivity began. At the corresponding date, to wit, 1919, God's people learned that there was a work yet to be done, which work was foreshadowed by the Prophet Elisha; and they began to proclaim God's message to this end. (*Watch Tower*, August, 1919) Christ Jesus was then at Jehovah's temple for judgment, and "the temple in heaven was open".

5 It seems reasonably to follow that Jehovah God will give his people on earth some understanding of his prophetic Word relating to the serving of notice upon the workers of iniquity and giving warning to all such before that service work is completed. It was after the coming of the Lord to his temple that God revealed to his people that hideous organization that Satan has builded up, and also disclosed to them that such organization is made up of three elements, to wit, commercial, political and religious. They have also been made to understand that "organized Christianity" is the most hypocritical and the wickedest part of the religious elements that rule the world. Those of the temple class would see and do see and appreciate these things; but it is hardly to be expected that those who do not believe that the Lord came to his temple in 1918, and is there now, would see them; and surely they would not appreciate them at all. There are a number of people today claiming to be consecrated to God and in the covenant for the kingdom who have been favored with a knowledge of present truth and yet who deny that the Lord Jesus Christ is at his temple, and who have no vision of Satan's organization; nor have they any vision of God's organization. This would explain not only why they refuse to have any part in giving testimony against the corrupt religionists and other portions of Satan's organization, but also why they oppose those who are actually engaged in giving that testimony. For some time after the coming of the Lord to his temple for judgment elders and others in the ecclesias who claim consecration, and who now oppose the work of giving testimony, sat in the same assembly with the faithful witnesses and heard discussed matters concerning the temple of God, but did not understand and did not appreciate the same.

6 Those of the consecrated who have been favored with a vision of the purposes of Christ at the temple of God and who appreciate the same may now well realize that there rests upon them a great responsibility to be obedient to God and to give warning as he has directed. A refusal to give such testimony of warning would put such in great jeopardy. To aid them in doing the work thus assigned to them by the Lord those things that have long been a secret and mystery hid in the prophecies Jehovah is now unfolding to his people. In the eighth chapter of Ezekiel's prophecy Jehovah makes known to his anointed ones some of the hideous abominations that are done in his name. Therefore the obligation is laid upon his "servant" class to give notice and warning of God's purpose concerning such abominations and of his judgments telling of their destruction. There seem to be some now who continue to associate with those who are the faithful witnesses, but who do not appreciate that there is any responsibility upon them to do anything toward giving the notice of warning. Some of these even express themselves as believing that little or nothing should be said about Satan's organization. God caused the prophecies to be written for the aid and comfort of those who love him and who should be on the earth at the end of the world, and we should expect, therefore, to find instruction and consolation therein at the present time. To this end the Lord discloses to his people the hideous things of Satan's organization, and particularly in Christendom, to the end that they might have an appreciation of why they are giving warning to those who defame Jehovah's holy name.

7 Jehovah has favored his covenant people with a knowledge of his purposes and has laid upon the leaders of each ecclesia the obligation of feeding and instructing the flock of God in his Word. (1 Pet. 5:2) The Lord is using and has used *The Watch Tower* from its foundation as his channel of communication to and between his people; and during the past few years *The Watch Tower* has repeatedly called attention to Satan's wicked organization. In the face of all this, however, there have been in the ecclesias certain elders wise in their own minds who have not been persuaded that the Devil has an organization at all. 'At least,' say they, 'we should go easy and say nothing about the preachers and their allies in the organization that controls the world.' The policy of these elders is to speak softly that even the clergy might be won over to the Lord's side. Some of the weaker ones in the ecclesias who desire to hear nothing against the clergy say in substance: "Our oldest elders, who are most fully developed in the Lord, say nothing about the Devil's organization; then why should these younger ones, who have recently been brought to a knowledge of the truth, say anything against them and others of the organization of this world?" The Society has been severely criticized because of the plain statements made in *The Watch Tower* and in its other publications concerning Satan's organization. These publica-

tions, however, must tell the truth or else they will cease to be used by the Lord. Now let those who have objected to any speech or publication about Satan's organization and the various elements thereof give consideration to the eighth chapter of Ezekiel's prophecy. If they believe what the Scriptures say, and if they understand the commission God has given to his covenant people, then let them take the proper attitude toward Satan's organization.

[8] Ezekiel began to prophesy in the fifth year of King Jehoiachin's captivity, which corresponds with the year 1919 (A. D.). It was one year and two months later that the events in the eighth chapter of Ezekiel's prophecy came to pass. This marks the beginning of a new vision and series of prophecies by Ezekiel. At the time when this prophecy began to have its final fulfilment, the Lord Jesus Christ was in the temple of Jehovah. He inspects the defiled "organized Christianity", so called, and points out to the "faithful servant" class, pictured by Ezekiel, the conditions there found, and the "servant" class is enabled to understand and appreciate the same as never before. As the vision appeared to Ezekiel, so the "faithful servant" class in every instance has seen that there is and has been the worship of the creature rather than the Creator. Such is Devil-worship, the Devil's method of fraudulently claiming to worship God, the purpose being to turn man away from Jehovah. An officer of Jehovah appeared in the name and by the power of Jehovah God and lifted Ezekiel up and showed him how the temple had been defiled. The fulfilment of this is that God through his duly constituted officers lifted up the "faithful servant" class, and showed that class how Satan had reproached and defamed God's name. "And he put forth the form of an hand, and took me by a lock of mine head; and the spirit lifted me up between the earth and the heaven, and brought me in the visions of God to Jerusalem, to the door of the inner gate that looketh toward the north; where was the seat of the image of jealousy, which provoketh to jealousy. And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel was there, according to the vision that I saw in the plain. Then said he unto me, Son of man, lift up thine eyes now the way toward the north. So I lifted up mine eyes the way toward the north, and behold, northward at the gate of the altar, this image of jealousy in the entry." (8: 3-5) Thus the Lord lifted up the faithful anointed "servant" class between earth and heaven and brought them in vision to Jerusalem, the heavenly organization, to the door of the inner gate of the temple that looks toward the north from which divine authority and judgment proceed, and there appeared the image of jealousy.

[9] The Devil is the very image or personification of jealousy and envy. He was jealous and envious of the worship given by man to Jehovah and coveted the same. Therefore Satan said: "I will be like the Most High." Everything that God has done for human salvation the Devil has tried to imitate, out of jealousy and for the purpose of deceit, to draw men away from Jehovah God. The Devil is the mimic god and vigorously endeavors to turn all creatures away from Jehovah and from the truth. This mimic or image provokes to jealousy. In giving his law to Israel God said: "Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image. . . . I the Lord thy God am a jealous God." (Ex. 20: 3-5) That law was not given for Jehovah's benefit, but was declared for the benefit of Israel and all who thereafter should come to a knowledge of God. All life proceeds from Jehovah, whereas Satan is the one who has unrighteously taken life. Envying the honor and glory that is properly bestowed upon Jehovah by his creatures, and coveting that honor and glory for himself, Satan has resorted to all manner of crime to turn creatures away from God. For the benefit of creation and for his own honor and glory, and that his creatures might know him and live, Jehovah God must in his own due time vindicate his name against this jealous one. All the images that have been reared up for the purpose of being worshiped were reared up by the Devil, and therefore the Devil is "the image of jealousy". The truth discloses the true situation, that man may have the opportunity to know God and know the way to life.

[10] As the image of jealousy seen by Ezekiel depicted the Devil, so the organization of the Devil on the earth is the true image of the Devil, morally, mentally, and in practice. Today God's "faithful servant" class sees "the abomination that maketh desolate", spoken of by Daniel the prophet and by the Lord Jesus Christ, standing in the holy place. (Matt. 24: 15) It is the Devil's product, his organization, and it is "the image of the beast", the League of Nations. It has its seat in the holy place of organized religion which calls itself by the holy name of God and claims to be the favored one of Jehovah God; and thus the name of Jehovah is reproached and desecrated. Its prime promoters and chief supporters are the nations which call themselves "Christian nations". "The image of jealousy" and the League of Nations, the product and offspring of the Devil, is anti-kingdom of God. All who support it, either actively or passively, put themselves in a position antagonistic to the kingdom of God. Those who profess to be consecrated to God and who hold that "the higher powers" means the ruling powers of this world deceive themselves and deceive others. Many of the elders of the ecclesias or Bible classes insist that "the higher powers", described by the apostle in Romans thirteen, means the ruling powers of this world. Being selfish, they have become blind to the revelation of God's truth. "God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie." (2 Thess. 2: 11) These also fail to see the organization of Jehovah, and therefore fail to appreciate the fact that the kingdom is at hand. They do not see the king-